

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2017

637

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

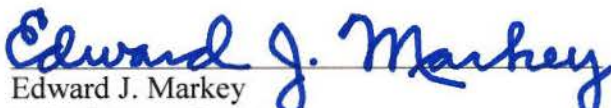
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) received more than fifteen million comments on your proposal to undo the strong net neutrality protections put in place by the Open Internet Order. This volume of comments underscores the tremendous interest the public has in this proceeding. Given the unprecedented number of comments, we urge the FCC to extend the reply comment period to allow sufficient time for the public to ensure their views are reflected in the record.

The FCC currently plans to allow just 30 days for reply comments. Yet in 2014, during the previous net neutrality proceeding, the FCC provided 60 days for Americans to reply. The FCC should follow its own precedent and extend the reply comment period to ensure the fullest spectrum of comments fills the docket in this historic rulemaking.

This proceeding has the potential to impact all Americans and as the expert agency, you should ensure that the Commission provides ample time to ensure all voices are heard.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



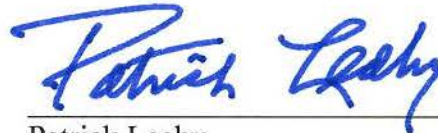
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator




Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

Consistent with our process reforms, the draft text of the Restoring Internet Freedom NPRM was released to the public on April 27, 2017, three weeks before that item was voted at the Commission's May agenda meeting. This level of transparency was not afforded in the 2014 Title II proceeding. In addition, on August 11, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau extended the deadline for filing reply comments by two weeks, until August 30, 2017, in response to a motion filed with the Commission. The Bureau recognized that, consistent with past Commission precedent granting partial extensions, an additional two weeks for replies was appropriate to provide parties additional time to analyze the technical, legal, and policy arguments raised by initial commenters. This will also allow parties to provide more thorough comments, ensuring that the Commission has a complete record on which to develop its decision.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

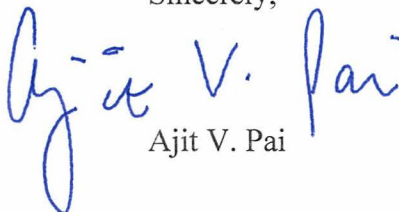
Dear Senator Duckworth:

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

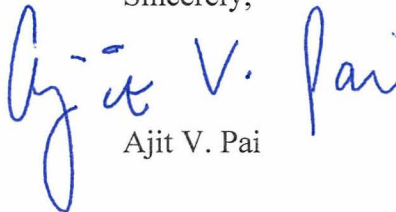
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

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August 30, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

Consistent with our process reforms, the draft text of the Restoring Internet Freedom NPRM was released to the public on April 27, 2017, three weeks before that item was voted at the Commission's May agenda meeting. This level of transparency was not afforded in the 2014 Title II proceeding. In addition, on August 11, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau extended the deadline for filing reply comments by two weeks, until August 30, 2017, in response to a motion filed with the Commission. The Bureau recognized that, consistent with past Commission precedent granting partial extensions, an additional two weeks for replies was appropriate to provide parties additional time to analyze the technical, legal, and policy arguments raised by initial commenters. This will also allow parties to provide more thorough comments, ensuring that the Commission has a complete record on which to develop its decision.

Currently, the FCC is in the midst of receiving public comment on this matter, and we will go where the facts and the law lead us. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on this critical issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of each name being prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a large, flowing script and the last name "Pai" in a more compact, cursive style. The middle initial "V." is written in a smaller, simpler font between the first and last names.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

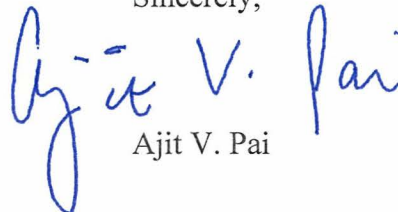
Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter urging an extension to the reply comment period for the Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2017. I believe in the importance of having a free and open Internet. And in this proceeding, the Commission is currently examining the best legal framework for both protecting Internet freedom and providing strong incentives for the private sector to build and expand next-generation networks so that all Americans can be connected to digital opportunity.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script.

Ajit V. Pai